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## Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

Jan. 1, New Year's Day; Maundy Thursday; Good Friday; May 1, Labor Day; July 19, Revolution Day; Sept. 14, San Jacinto Battle Day; Sept. 15, National Independence Day; Oct. 12, Columbus Day; Immaculate Conception; and Dec. 25, Christmas Day.

## Industries

Agriculture is the principal industry. Coffee, cotton, bananas, rice, and tobacco are the main crops. Livestock, fishery, forestry, and mining are also important to the economy.

The chief local industries are metal products, chemicals, and petroleum refining.

## Languages

The official language is Spanish. English and Indian are widely spoken on the Atlantic coast.

## Search and Rescue

The Nicaraguan Air Force coordinates search and rescue operations. The Maritime Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC) is situated at the international airport.

## Time Zone

The Time Zone description is SIERRA (+6).

## U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at Kilometer 4.5 Carretera Sur., Managua. The mailing address is APO AA 34021.

## General

Nicaragua, which borders Costa Rica and Honduras, is located in Central America. The Caribbean Sea lies to its N and the Pacific to its S.

The climate on both coasts lie within the hot, tropical zone while the temperatures become cooler in the interior highlands.

The Atlantic coast has expansive coastal plains rising to central interior mountains. Inland, the country is spanned diagonally by two high mountain chains.

## Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region B) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

## Currency

The official unit of currency is the gold cordoba, consisting of 100 centavos.

## Government

Nicaragua is a republic. The capital is Managua.